

News Release



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For Continuing Release

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Columbia Diggin's

Get a Glimpse of the Gold Rush at Columbia State Historic Park
June 2nd-5th, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

It's the 25th anniversary of the Columbia Diggin's! Come join us for this special event as the docents and staff of Columbia State Historic Park provide visitors the opportunity travel back to 1852. Experience the sights, smells and sounds of the early tent town that sprung up when gold was discovered in a local streambed, later to become the town of Columbia. There is no other event like it in California.

A great deal of research is involved in re-creating the characterizations, emerging architecture, clothing, food and entertainment of early 1850's Columbia. The docents, staff, and visiting re-enactors strive each year to provide an accurate representation of the era.

Meet the miners as well as merchants, artisans and entertainers who have come to the Diggin's essentially to "mine the pockets of the Miners". Visitors can observe different mining techniques and see the popular foods of the day prepared at the American Hotel, and the bakery. Take in a show at Cazneau's Theatre, featuring music and dancing. See a photographer plying his trade using early tin-type methods, make purchases from a gold rush era mercantile, or post your letters at the Express Office.

On June 4th, from 7-10pm, visitors can enjoy "Saturday Night in the Mines". Enjoy your favorite beverages while participating in authentic gambling from the 1850's, such as monte, chuck-a-luck and pharo. Dance to music provided by the Great Mother Lode Brass and Reed Band's Coronet Band. Following the games, prizes are available to purchase at auction, with your winnings. This is a fundraiser for the event and tickets are \$15 each, available at the gate.

Columbia is located four miles north of Sonora in Tuolumne County. The Diggin's Tent Town is open from Thursday June 2nd through Sunday June 5th from 10am to 5pm. Call 209-588-9128 or www.columbiacalifornia.com for further details.
